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**THREE MEN INDICTED ON CHARGES OF RECEIVING AND
POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that three indictments were returned by a federal grand jury sitting in Fresno, California. These indictments, while unrelated, charge all three men with receipt and possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

The indictments were returned against JOHN EUGENE DAVIS, 40, of Clovis, STEVEN KANE PINKERTON, 56, of Fresno, and ADAM CASSLE, 27, of Fresno. All of the indictments allege that the defendants used a computer and the Internet to obtain images of child pornography.

The Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Clovis Police Department investigated DAVIS when child pornography found in a dumpster at his apartment complex was traced back to him. PINKERTON was connected to child pornography after ICE agents obtained information that he had allegedly purchased access to a web site known to contain child pornography. CASSLE came to the attention of law enforcement after information from ICE agents in Oregon assisted in determining that he was making available images of child pornography from his computer in Fresno.

The coordinated efforts of law enforcement in these cases were undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sheila K. Oberto, who is prosecuting the cases, if convicted of the charges as alleged in the indictments, the defendants each face up to 20 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum of 5 years imprisonment for receipt of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Possession of child pornography is punishable for up to 10 years in prison. Both offenses provide for a possible lifetime term of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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